110TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H.R. 758

AN ACT

- To require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.
 - 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
 - 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2	This Act may be cited as the "Breast Cancer Patient
3	Protection Act of 2008".
4	SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
5	Congress finds that—
6	(1) the offering and operation of health plans
7	affect commerce among the States;
8	(2) health care providers located in a State
9	serve patients who reside in the State and patients
10	who reside in other States;
11	(3) in order to provide for uniform treatment of
12	health care providers and patients among the States,
13	it is necessary to cover health plans operating in 1
14	State as well as health plans operating among the
15	several States;
16	(4) currently, 20 States mandate minimum hos-
17	pital stay coverage after a patient undergoes a mas-
18	tectomy;

- (5) according to the American Cancer Society, there were 40,954 deaths due to breast cancer in women in 2004;
- (6) according to the American Cancer Society, there are currently over 2.0 million women living in the United States who have been treated for breast cancer; and

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1	(7) according to the American Cancer Society,
2	a woman in the United States has a 1 in 8 chance
3	of developing invasive breast cancer in her lifetime.
4	SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT IN-
5	COME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.
6	(a) In General.—Subpart B of part 7 of subtitle
7	B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security
8	Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185 et seq.) is amended by add-
9	ing at the end the following:
10	"SEC. 714. REQUIRED COVERAGE FOR MINIMUM HOSPITAL
11	STAY FOR MASTECTOMIES, LUMPECTOMIES,
12	AND LYMPH NODE DISSECTIONS FOR THE
13	TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER AND COV-
14	ERAGE FOR SECONDARY CONSULTATIONS.
15	"(a) Inpatient Care.—
16	"(1) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan, and a
17	health insurance issuer providing health insurance
18	coverage in connection with a group health plan,
19	that provides medical and surgical benefits shall en-
20	sure that inpatient (and in the case of a
21	lumpectomy, outpatient) coverage and radiation
22	therapy is provided for breast cancer treatment.
23	Such plan or coverage may not—

1	"(A) insofar as the attending physician, in
2	consultation with the patient, determines it to
3	be medically necessary—
4	"(i) restrict benefits for any hospital
5	length of stay in connection with a mastec-
6	tomy or breast conserving surgery (such as
7	a lumpectomy) for the treatment of breast
8	cancer to less than 48 hours; or
9	"(ii) restrict benefits for any hospital
10	length of stay in connection with a lymph
11	node dissection for the treatment of breast
12	cancer to less than 24 hours; or
13	"(B) require that a provider obtain author-
14	ization from the plan or the issuer for pre-
15	scribing any length of stay required under this
16	paragraph.
17	"(2) Exception.—Nothing in this section shall
18	be construed as requiring the provision of inpatient
19	coverage if the attending physician, in consultation
20	with the patient, determines that either a shorter pe-
21	riod of hospital stay, or outpatient treatment, is
22	medically appropriate.
23	"(b) Prohibition on Certain Modifications.—
24	In implementing the requirements of this section, a group
25	health plan, and a health insurance issuer providing health

- 1 insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan,
- 2 may not modify the terms and conditions of coverage
- 3 based on the determination by a participant or beneficiary
- 4 to request less than the minimum coverage required under
- 5 subsection (a).
- 6 "(c) NOTICE.—A group health plan, and a health in-
- 7 surance issuer providing health insurance coverage in con-
- 8 nection with a group health plan shall provide notice to
- 9 each participant and beneficiary under such plan regard-
- 10 ing the coverage required by this section in accordance
- 11 with regulations promulgated by the Secretary. Such no-
- 12 tice shall be in writing and prominently positioned in the
- 13 summary of the plan made available or distributed by the
- 14 plan or issuer and shall be transmitted—
- 15 "(1) in the next mailing made by the plan or
- issuer to the participant or beneficiary; or
- 17 "(2) as part of any yearly informational packet
- sent to the participant or beneficiary;
- 19 whichever is earlier.
- 20 "(d) Secondary Consultations.—
- 21 "(1) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan, and a
- health insurance issuer providing health insurance
- coverage in connection with a group health plan,
- that provides coverage with respect to medical and
- 25 surgical services provided in relation to the diagnosis

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and treatment of cancer shall ensure that coverage is provided for secondary consultations, on terms and conditions that are no more restrictive than those applicable to the initial consultations, by specialists in the appropriate medical fields (including pathology, radiology, and oncology) to confirm or refute such diagnosis. Such plan or issuer shall ensure that coverage is provided for such secondary consultation whether such consultation is based on a positive or negative initial diagnosis. In any case in which the attending physician certifies in writing that services necessary for such a secondary consultation are not sufficiently available from specialists operating under the plan with respect to whose services coverage is otherwise provided under such plan or by such issuer, such plan or issuer shall ensure that coverage is provided with respect to the services necessary for the secondary consultation with any other specialist selected by the attending physician for such purpose at no additional cost to the individual beyond that which the individual would have paid if the specialist was participating in the network of the plan.

"(2) Exception.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed as requiring the provision of sec-

- 1 ondary consultations where the patient determines
- 2 not to seek such a consultation.
- 3 "(e) Prohibition on Penalties or Incentives.—
- 4 A group health plan, and a health insurance issuer pro-
- 5 viding health insurance coverage in connection with a
- 6 group health plan, may not—
- "(1) penalize or otherwise reduce or limit the reimbursement of a provider or specialist because the provider or specialist provided care to a partici-
- pant or beneficiary in accordance with this section;
- 11 "(2) provide financial or other incentives to a
- physician or specialist to induce the physician or
- specialist to keep the length of inpatient stays of pa-
- 14 tients following a mastectomy, lumpectomy, or a
- 15 lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast
- 16 cancer below certain limits or to limit referrals for
- 17 secondary consultations; or
- 18 "(3) provide financial or other incentives to a
- 19 physician or specialist to induce the physician or
- specialist to refrain from referring a participant or
- 21 beneficiary for a secondary consultation that would
- otherwise be covered by the plan or coverage in-
- volved under subsection (d).".
- 24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
- 25 in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security

- 1 Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relat-
- ing to section 713 the following:

"Sec. 714. Required coverage for minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissections for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.".

3 (c) Effective Dates.—

- (1) In General.—The amendments made by 4 5 this section shall apply with respect to plan years be-6 ginning on or after the date that is 90 days after 7 the date of enactment of this Act.
- 8 SPECIAL RULE FOR COLLECTIVE 9 GAINING AGREEMENTS.—In the case of a group 10 health plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements between employee rep-12 resentatives and 1 or more employers ratified before 13 the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments 14 made by this section shall not apply to plan years 15 beginning before the date on which the last collective 16 bargaining agreements relating to the plan termi-17 nates (determined without regard to any extension 18 thereof agreed to after the date of enactment of this 19 Act). For purposes of this paragraph, any plan 20 amendment made pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement relating to the plan which amends the 22 plan solely to conform to any requirement added by 23 this section shall not be treated as a termination of 24 such collective bargaining agreement.

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1	SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
2	ACT RELATING TO THE GROUP MARKET.
3	(a) In General.—Subpart 2 of part A of title
4	XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
5	300gg-4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
6	following:
7	"SEC. 2707. REQUIRED COVERAGE FOR MINIMUM HOSPITAL
8	STAY FOR MASTECTOMIES, LUMPECTOMIES,
9	AND LYMPH NODE DISSECTIONS FOR THE
0	TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER AND COV-
1	ERAGE FOR SECONDARY CONSULTATIONS.
2	"(a) Inpatient Care.—
3	"(1) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan, and a
4	health insurance issuer providing health insurance
5	coverage in connection with a group health plan,
6	that provides medical and surgical benefits shall en-
7	sure that inpatient (and in the case of a
8	lumpectomy, outpatient) coverage and radiation
9	therapy is provided for breast cancer treatment.
20	Such plan or coverage may not—
21	"(A) insofar as the attending physician, in
22	consultation with the patient, determines it to
23	be medically necessary—
24	"(i) restrict benefits for any hospital
25	length of stay in connection with a mastec-
26	tomy or breast conserving surgery (such as

1	a lumpectomy) for the treatment of breast
2	cancer to less than 48 hours; or
3	"(ii) restrict benefits for any hospital
4	length of stay in connection with a lymph
5	node dissection for the treatment of breast
6	cancer to less than 24 hours; or
7	"(B) require that a provider obtain author-
8	ization from the plan or the issuer for pre-
9	scribing any length of stay required under this
10	paragraph.
11	"(2) Exception.—Nothing in this section shall
12	be construed as requiring the provision of inpatient
13	coverage if the attending physician, in consultation
14	with the patient, determines that either a shorter pe-
15	riod of hospital stay, or outpatient treatment, is
16	medically appropriate.
17	"(b) Prohibition on Certain Modifications.—
18	In implementing the requirements of this section, a group
19	health plan, and a health insurance issuer providing health
20	insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan,
21	may not modify the terms and conditions of coverage
22	based on the determination by a participant or beneficiary
23	to request less than the minimum coverage required under
24	subsection (a).

- 1 "(c) Notice.—A group health plan, and a health in-
- 2 surance issuer providing health insurance coverage in con-
- 3 nection with a group health plan shall provide notice to
- 4 each participant and beneficiary under such plan regard-
- 5 ing the coverage required by this section in accordance
- 6 with regulations promulgated by the Secretary. Such no-
- 7 tice shall be in writing and prominently positioned in the
- 8 summary of the plan made available or distributed by the
- 9 plan or issuer and shall be transmitted—
- 10 "(1) in the next mailing made by the plan or
- issuer to the participant or beneficiary; or
- 12 "(2) as part of any yearly informational packet
- sent to the participant or beneficiary;
- 14 whichever is earlier.
- 15 "(d) Secondary Consultations.—
- 16 "(1) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan, and a
- health insurance issuer providing health insurance
- 18 coverage in connection with a group health plan,
- that provides coverage with respect to medical and
- surgical services provided in relation to the diagnosis
- and treatment of cancer shall ensure that coverage
- is provided for secondary consultations, on terms
- and conditions that are no more restrictive than
- those applicable to the initial consultations, by spe-
- cialists in the appropriate medical fields (including

1 pathology, radiology, and oncology) to confirm or re-2 fute such diagnosis. Such plan or issuer shall ensure that coverage is provided for such secondary con-3 sultation whether such consultation is based on a 5 positive or negative initial diagnosis. In any case in which the attending physician certifies in writing 6 7 that services necessary for such a secondary con-8 sultation are not sufficiently available from special-9 ists operating under the plan with respect to whose 10 services coverage is otherwise provided under such 11 plan or by such issuer, such plan or issuer shall en-12 sure that coverage is provided with respect to the 13 services necessary for the secondary consultation 14 with any other specialist selected by the attending 15 physician for such purpose at no additional cost to 16 the individual beyond that which the individual 17 would have paid if the specialist was participating in 18 the network of the plan.

- "(2) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed as requiring the provision of secondary consultations where the patient determines not to seek such a consultation.
- "(e) Prohibition on Penalties or Incentives.—
- 24 A group health plan, and a health insurance issuer pro-

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- 1 viding health insurance coverage in connection with a2 group health plan, may not—
- "(1) penalize or otherwise reduce or limit the reimbursement of a provider or specialist because the provider or specialist provided care to a participant or beneficiary in accordance with this section;
 - "(2) provide financial or other incentives to a physician or specialist to induce the physician or specialist to keep the length of inpatient stays of patients following a mastectomy, lumpectomy, or a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer below certain limits or to limit referrals for secondary consultations; or
 - "(3) provide financial or other incentives to a physician or specialist to induce the physician or specialist to refrain from referring a participant or beneficiary for a secondary consultation that would otherwise be covered by the plan or coverage involved under subsection (d).".

(b) Effective Dates.—

(1) In General.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to group health plans for plan years beginning on or after 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (2)SPECIAL RULE FOR COLLECTIVE 2 GAINING AGREEMENTS.—In the case of a group 3 health plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collec-4 tive bargaining agreements between employee rep-5 resentatives and 1 or more employers ratified before 6 the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments 7 made by this section shall not apply to plan years 8 beginning before the date on which the last collective 9 bargaining agreements relating to the plan termi-10 nates (determined without regard to any extension 11 thereof agreed to after the date of enactment of this 12 Act). For purposes of this paragraph, any plan 13 amendment made pursuant to a collective bargaining 14 agreement relating to the plan which amends the 15 plan solely to conform to any requirement added by 16 this section shall not be treated as a termination of 17 such collective bargaining agreement.

18 SEC. 5. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT

- 19 RELATING TO THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET.
- 20 (a) In General.—Subpart 2 of part B of title
- 21 XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
- 22 300gg-51 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
- 23 following new section:

1	"SEC. 2754. REQUIRED COVERAGE FOR MINIMUM HOSPITAL
2	STAY FOR MASTECTOMIES, LUMPECTOMIES,
3	AND LYMPH NODE DISSECTIONS FOR THE
4	TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER AND SEC-
5	ONDARY CONSULTATIONS.
6	"The provisions of section 2707 shall apply to health
7	insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer
8	in the individual market in the same manner as they apply
9	to health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance
10	issuer in connection with a group health plan in the small
11	or large group market.".
12	(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by
13	this section shall apply with respect to health insurance
14	coverage offered, sold, issued, renewed, in effect, or oper-
15	ated in the individual market on or after the date of enact-
16	ment of this Act.
17	SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE
18	OF 1986.
19	(a) In General.—Subchapter B of chapter 100 of
20	the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—
21	(1) in the table of sections, by inserting after
22	the item relating to section 9812 the following:
	"Sec. 9813. Required coverage for minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissections for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.";

23 and

1	(2) by inserting after section 9812 the fol-
2	lowing:
3	"SEC. 9813. REQUIRED COVERAGE FOR MINIMUM HOSPITAL
4	STAY FOR MASTECTOMIES, LUMPECTOMIES,
5	AND LYMPH NODE DISSECTIONS FOR THE
6	TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER AND COV-
7	ERAGE FOR SECONDARY CONSULTATIONS.
8	"(a) Inpatient Care.—
9	"(1) In general.—A group health plan that
10	provides medical and surgical benefits shall ensure
11	that inpatient (and in the case of a lumpectomy,
12	outpatient) coverage and radiation therapy is pro-
13	vided for breast cancer treatment. Such plan may
14	not—
15	"(A) insofar as the attending physician, in
16	consultation with the patient, determines it to
17	be medically necessary—
18	"(i) restrict benefits for any hospital
19	length of stay in connection with a mastec-
20	tomy or breast conserving surgery (such as
21	a lumpectomy) for the treatment of breast
22	cancer to less than 48 hours; or
23	"(ii) restrict benefits for any hospital
24	length of stay in connection with a lymph

1	node dissection for the treatment of breast
2	cancer to less than 24 hours; or
3	"(B) require that a provider obtain author-
4	ization from the plan for prescribing any length
5	of stay required under this paragraph.
6	"(2) Exception.—Nothing in this section shall
7	be construed as requiring the provision of inpatient
8	coverage if the attending physician, in consultation
9	with the patient, determines that either a shorter pe-
10	riod of hospital stay, or outpatient treatment, is
11	medically appropriate.
12	"(b) Prohibition on Certain Modifications.—
13	In implementing the requirements of this section, a group
14	health plan may not modify the terms and conditions of
15	coverage based on the determination by a participant or
16	beneficiary to request less than the minimum coverage re-
17	quired under subsection (a).
18	"(c) Notice.—A group health plan shall provide no-
19	tice to each participant and beneficiary under such plan
20	regarding the coverage required by this section in accord-
21	ance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary. Such
22	notice shall be in writing and prominently positioned in
23	the summary of the plan made available or distributed by
24	the plan and shall be transmitted—

- 1 "(1) in the next mailing made by the plan to 2 the participant or beneficiary; or
- 3 "(2) as part of any yearly informational packet 4 sent to the participant or beneficiary;
- 5 whichever is earlier.

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6 "(d) Secondary Consultations.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan that provides coverage with respect to medical and surgical services provided in relation to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer shall ensure that coverage is provided for secondary consultations, on terms and conditions that are no more restrictive than those applicable to the initial consultations, by specialists in the appropriate medical fields (including pathology, radiology, and oncology) to confirm or refute such diagnosis. Such plan or issuer shall ensure that coverage is provided for such secondary consultation whether such consultation is based on a positive or negative initial diagnosis. In any case in which the attending physician certifies in writing that services necessary for such a secondary consultation are not sufficiently available from specialists operating under the plan with respect to whose services coverage is otherwise provided under such plan or by such issuer, such plan or issuer shall en-

- sure that coverage is provided with respect to the services necessary for the secondary consultation with any other specialist selected by the attending physician for such purpose at no additional cost to the individual beyond that which the individual would have paid if the specialist was participating in the network of the plan.
- 8 "(2) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1)
 9 shall be construed as requiring the provision of sec10 ondary consultations where the patient determines
 11 not to seek such a consultation.
- 12 "(e) Prohibition on Penalties.—A group health13 plan may not—
 - "(1) penalize or otherwise reduce or limit the reimbursement of a provider or specialist because the provider or specialist provided care to a participant or beneficiary in accordance with this section;
 - "(2) provide financial or other incentives to a physician or specialist to induce the physician or specialist to keep the length of inpatient stays of patients following a mastectomy, lumpectomy, or a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer below certain limits or to limit referrals for secondary consultations; or

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1 "(3) provide financial or other incentives to a
2 physician or specialist to induce the physician or
3 specialist to refrain from referring a participant or
4 beneficiary for a secondary consultation that would
5 otherwise be covered by the plan involved under sub6 section (d).".

(b) Effective Dates.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to plan years beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act.
- (2) Special rule for collective barsaments.—In the case of a group health plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements between employee representatives and 1 or more employers ratified before the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments made by this section shall not apply to plan years beginning before the date on which the last collective bargaining agreements relating to the plan terminates (determined without regard to any extension thereof agreed to after the date of enactment of this Act). For purposes of this paragraph, any plan amendment made pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement relating to the plan which amends the

1	plan solely to conform to any requirement added by
2	this section shall not be treated as a termination of
3	such collective bargaining agreement.
4	SEC. 7. OPPORTUNITY FOR INDEPENDENT, EXTERNAL
5	THIRD PARTY REVIEWS OF CERTAIN NON-
6	RENEWALS AND DISCONTINUATIONS, IN-
7	CLUDING RESCISSIONS, OF INDIVIDUAL
8	HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.
9	(a) Clarification Regarding Application of
10	GUARANTEED RENEWABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL HEALTH
11	Insurance Coverage.—Section 2742 of the Public
12	Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-42) is amended—
13	(1) in its heading, by inserting ", CONTINU-
14	ATION IN FORCE, INCLUDING PROHIBITION OF
15	RESCISSION," after "GUARANTEED RENEW-
16	ABILITY'';
17	(2) in subsection (a), by inserting ", including
18	without rescission," after "continue in force"; and
19	(3) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting before the
20	period at the end the following: ", including inten-
21	tional concealment of material facts regarding a
22	health condition related to the condition for which
23	coverage is being claimed".
24	(b) Opportunity for Independent, External

25 THIRD PARTY REVIEW IN CERTAIN CASES.—Subpart 1

- 1 of part B of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act
- 2 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
- 3 "SEC. 2746. OPPORTUNITY FOR INDEPENDENT, EXTERNAL
- 4 THIRD PARTY REVIEW IN CERTAIN CASES.
- 5 "(a) Notice and Review Right.—If a health in-
- 6 surance issuer determines to nonrenew or not continue in
- 7 force, including rescind, health insurance coverage for an
- 8 individual in the individual market on the basis described
- 9 in section 2742(b)(2) before such nonrenewal, discontinu-
- 10 ation, or rescission, may take effect the issuer shall pro-
- 11 vide the individual with notice of such proposed non-
- 12 renewal, discontinuation, or rescission and an opportunity
- 13 for a review of such determination by an independent, ex-
- 14 ternal third party under procedures specified by the Sec-
- 15 retary.
- 16 "(b) Independent Determination.—If the indi-
- 17 vidual requests such review by an independent, external
- 18 third party of a nonrenewal, discontinuation, or rescission
- 19 of health insurance coverage, the coverage shall remain in
- 20 effect until such third party determines that the coverage
- 21 may be nonrenewed, discontinued, or rescinded under sec-
- 22 tion 2742(b)(2).".
- (c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
- 24 this section shall apply after the date of the enactment

- 1 of this Act with respect to health insurance coverage
- 2 issued before, on, or after such date.

Passed the House of Representatives September 25, 2008.

Attest:

Clerk.

110TH CONGRESS H. R. 758

AN ACT

To require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.